

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY

Freshwater Aquatic Weeds Management Fund Grant Workshop



Agenda

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Review Aquatic Weeds Management Fund program requirements
- ❖ Review of the grant application form

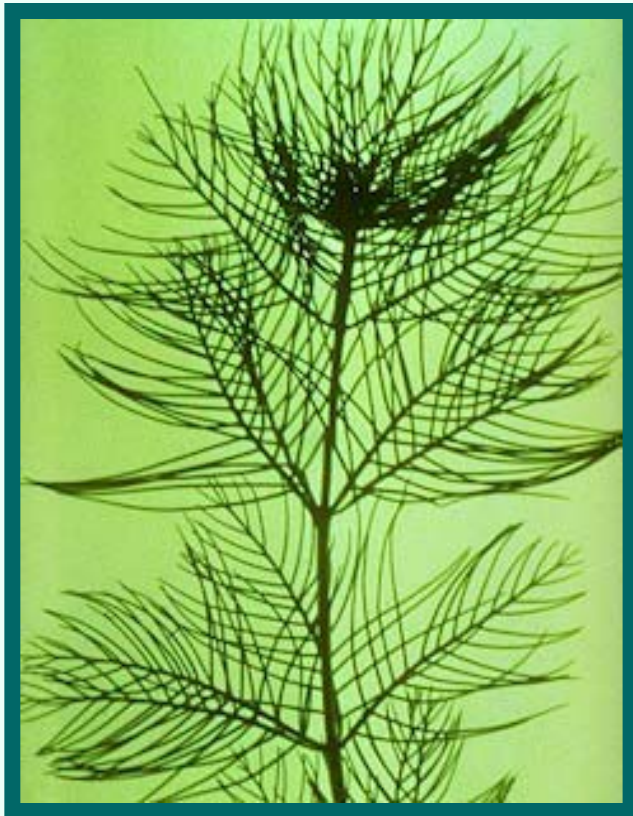
Please ask questions at any time

Purpose of the Fund

To provide financial and technical assistance to state and local governments, tribes, and special purpose districts (LMD excepted) to:

- reduce the propagation of freshwater aquatic weeds
- manage the problems these weeds cause

What is an Aquatic Weed?



- ❖ An aquatic weed is an invasive, freshwater plant like:
 - Eurasian watermilfoil
 - Brazilian elodea
 - Parrotfeather
 - Hydrilla
 - Purple loosestrife
 - Others

New Definition

- ❖ As of January 2002, a freshwater weed is further defined to include only those species that are classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as obligate or facultative wetland species.
- ❖ Obligate wetland species occur in wetlands greater than 99 percent of the time. Facultative wetland species occur in wetlands 67 - 99 percent of the time
- ❖ Eurasian watermilfoil, Brazilian elodea, parrotfeather are obligate wetland species
- ❖ Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a facultative wetland species.
- ❖ Japanese knotweed is not an aquatic weed by this definition.

Funding

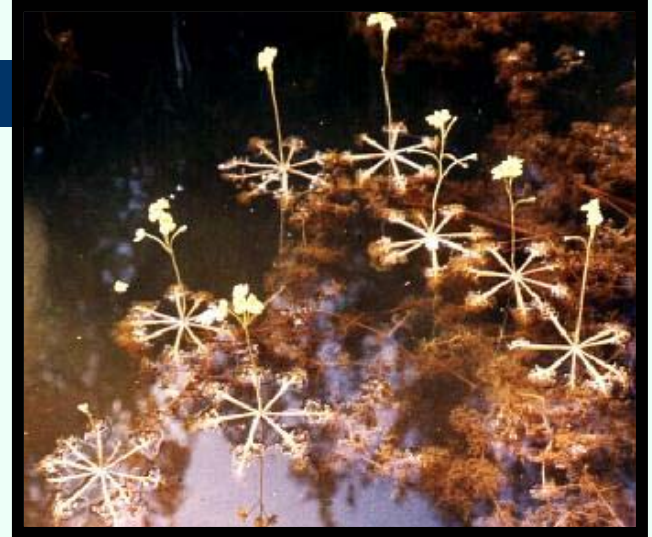


- ❖ Funding comes from an annual boat trailer fee - \$3.00 per trailer goes to this program
- ❖ About \$600,000 per year is collected
- ❖ Two-thirds is passed through to state and local governments for grant projects

Who Can Receive Funding?

- ❖ State Governments
- ❖ Local Governments
- ❖ Tribes
- ❖ Special Purpose Districts - Not LMDs

(Local lake groups must work through one of the above groups to get funding)



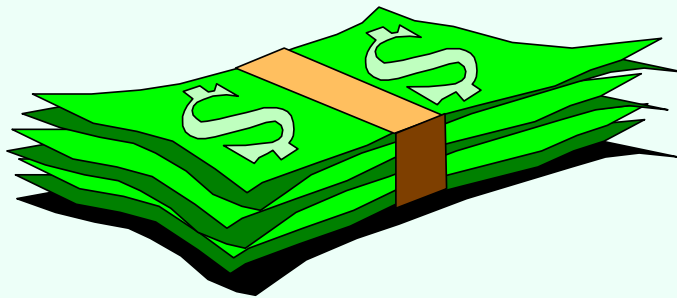


Grant Projects are Limited to:

- ❖ Waterbodies with public boat launching facilities (must have a ramp that allows you to use a wheeled boat trailer - canoe put-ins do not qualify)
- ❖ Lakes that are designated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife as fly-fishing only lakes (these lakes don't need public access)

How Much Money is Available?

- ❖ Approximately \$300,000 is available during the annual grant cycle. This year we have more!!
- ❖ About \$100,000 is available on a first-come, first-served basis for early infestation projects



Types of Grants Available

❖ Competitive Grants
(given out on an
annual cycle)

❖ Early Infestation
Grants



What is an Early Infestation Project?

- ❖ An invasive, nonnative freshwater plant is discovered in its early stages of invading a waterbody. Early action is critical to achieve eradication or containment. A sponsor may obtain immediate funding to deal with this situation.
 - Generally three acres or less of the plant is considered to be early infestation
 - Needing to use whole lake herbicide treatment is not considered early infestation.

Early Infestation Projects

- ❖ Early infestation status must be verified by Ecology or other qualified people (weed board staff)
- ❖ An application must be submitted and will be evaluated by Ecology
- ❖ Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis - unused funds will carry forward to the next annual funding cycle



The Annual Funding Cycle

- ❖ Is competitive - generally more applications are received than can be funded. The applications are prioritized - often only the high-priority projects receive funding.
- ❖ The quality of the applications and projects has been high.

The Annual Funding Cycle



- ❖ Our application process has deliberately remained the same throughout our funding history.
- ❖ Application forms, list of projects, grant guidelines, grant scopes of work, application examples are all on our website.

Types of Projects Funded Include

- ❖ Aquatic plant survey and mapping
- ❖ Development of Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plans
- ❖ Education

- ❖ Implementation of plans (control)
- ❖ Pilot/demonstration projects
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of the control measures

Funding Priorities

- ❖ Projects dealing with state-listed noxious aquatic plants receive priority over nuisance native plant projects
- ❖ Class A and B-designate listed plants receive funding priority over C list species.

Class A – hydrilla

Class B – Eurasian milfoil, Brazilian elodea, loosestrife

Class C – Fragrant water lily

Funding Priorities – (Continued)

- ❖ Projects dealing with submersed species (Eurasian watermilfoil & Brazilian elodea) are generally given higher priority than projects dealing with emergent species (purple loosestrife).
- ❖ Applicants with approved integrated aquatic plant management plans receive highest priority.
- ❖ Well thought out projects with strong local commitment and competent staff are favored

Planning before Implementation

- ❖ To be eligible to apply for implementation funds, an integrated aquatic plant management plan must be completed
- ❖ Plans are grant-eligible
- ❖ Plans must meet minimum standards as set out in the grant guidelines.
- ❖ Plans must be approved by grant program staff.

Why Plan?

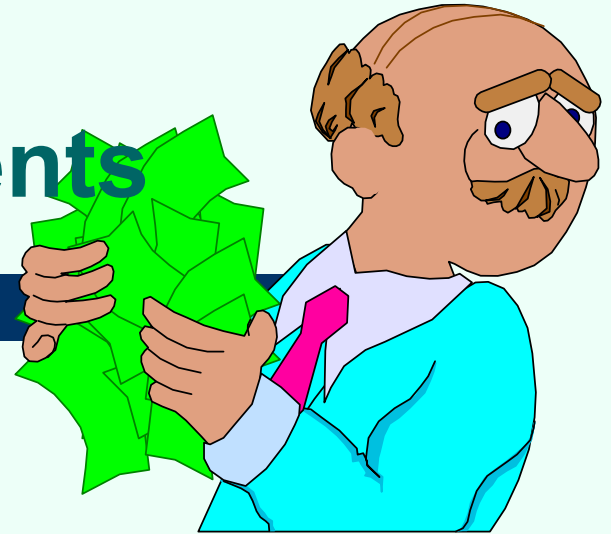
- ❖ Planning provides a means to make an informed decision about managing aquatic weeds
- ❖ Planning ensures that those who have an interest in the waterbody will have a chance to provide input

- ❖ Having a plan is required before Ecology will fund most implementation projects
- ❖ Planning will be required to acquire aquatic herbicide permits from Ecology

Implementation Projects

- ❖ Any implementation projects that use aquatic herbicides as a control method will have monitoring requirements
- ❖ This is to satisfy the monitoring requirements under the NPDES permits for aquatic pesticides.

Local Match Requirements



- ❖ For most projects there is a 25 percent local match requirement
 - One half of the match may be in-kind contributions, one half must be in cash
 - There are exceptions such as for early infestation and pilot projects

What Does In-Kind Match Mean?

In-kind contributions are volunteer donations to the grant project and can include:

- Time of the steering committee at \$12.50 per hour
- Help with monitoring and surveys, preparing informational newsletters, etc.
- Donation of the use of personal property like boats to help with the project

What is Cash Match?

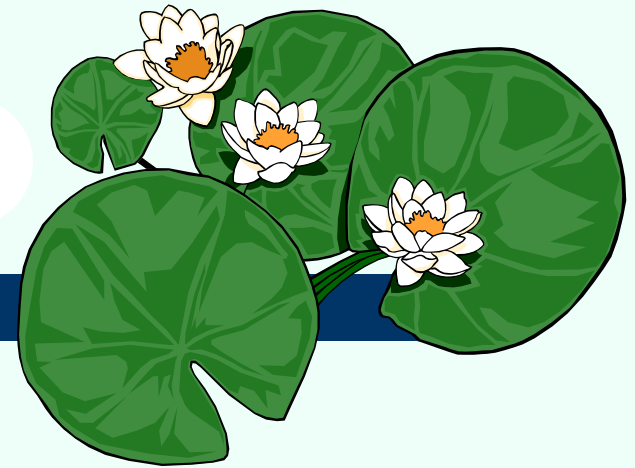
Time spent by the sponsor working on the project and being paid through other funds (e.g. - a county weed board coordinator being paid a salary by the county, but spending time on the grant) - This time could be billed to the grant at the regular salary and benefits of the employee and used as CASH match to the grant.

Exceptions to 25 Percent Match

- ❖ Pilot Projects
- ❖ Early Infestation Projects



Pilot Projects



- ❖ Use new technology or try new techniques
- ❖ These projects benefit more than just the sponsor
 - Matching fund requirements
 - 87.5 percent state share
 - 12.5 percent local share
 - One half of the match may be in-kind contributions

Early Infestation Projects

❖ Local Match Requirements

- 87.5 percent state share
- 12.5 percent local share

- Match may be in any combination of cash, in-kind contributions, or other grants



Grant Ceiling Amounts

- ❖ Planning grants are limited to \$30,000 state share for a total project amount of \$40,000
- ❖ Early infestation grants are limited to \$50,000 state share
- ❖ Other grants are limited to \$75,000 state share for a \$100,000 total project cost

Ceiling Amounts per Public Body

The purpose of establishing ceiling amounts is to distribute the funds to several (many) sponsors each funding cycle

- \$75,000 for general aquatic weed management projects per year per public body
- \$75,000 for early infestation projects per year per public body

How are Projects Evaluated?

- ❖ Ecology headquarters and regional staff will evaluate each application
- ❖ We meet and determine a final priority list
- ❖ This list will be developed and issued in January or February 2003
- ❖ Grant offers are effective for one year from the date of the offer list

If a Grant is Offered

- ❖ The local sponsor will be contacted to negotiate a grant agreement
- ❖ Planning grants generally follow a “boiler plate” grant scope
- ❖ The sponsor has one year to negotiate an agreement

If a Grant is Offered

- ❖ The sponsor must follow Ecology's administrative grant guidelines
- ❖ The sponsor has reporting requirements to Ecology
- ❖ The sponsor must prepare a final report or a final plan that is submitted and approved by Ecology

Schedule

- ❖ The official application period starts on October 1 and ends on November 1
- ❖ Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on November 1
- ❖ Because we need an original signature, we can't accept faxed or e-mailed applications

Checklist



One original and six copies of the application

Need More Information?

- ❖ Call Kathy at (360) 407-6563
- ❖ E-mail address is: kham461@ecy.wa.gov
- ❖ Web site address:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov>

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